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PROGRESS ON NEW BUILDING BILL

Identical bills (H.R. 5700 and S. 1765) are now before ommittees of both houses of the Congress containing an item alling for $350,000 for plans for the new Armed Forces Medcal Library building to be constructed on the grounds of he National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

The AFML segment of the bill was presented before a ubcommittee of the Armed Services Committee of the Senate n 11 May, and before the Armed Services Committee of the ouse on 25 May 1955. When the bills have cleared these ommittees they will next go before the Appropriations Comittees of the Senate and House.

54TH ANNUAL MEETING, MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Approximately 275 people attended the 54th Annual Meeng of the Medical Library Association in Milwaukee, 16-20 ay 1955. Miss Wilma Troxel, President of MLA, presided. he convention was under the able management of Mrs. Edith ernehl as General Chairman, and Miss Otilia D. Goode, Cohairman. The group voted to hold the 1956 meeting in Los ngeles, 19-26 June (Mrs. Ella Moyers Crandall, Convention hairman), and the 1957 meeting in New York, 5-10 May (Miss ertrude L. Annan, Convention Chairman).

Each meeting of the Association has its own flavor, and hat of the 1955 meeting was gemütlichkeit mixed with scienific information. At the opening session, Dr. E. G. Wakeield, Associate Professor of Medicine, Graduate School of he University of Minnesota (Mayo Foundation), gave a decription of the paleopathology of the Ozark cliff dwellers nd of the group practicing mound burial. An entire session f scientific papers was presented by the faculty of Marquette University School of Medicine: Dr.Abraham B. Schwartz alked on Pediatric References; Dr. Armand J. Quick spoke on emophilia and Hemophiliacs; Mr. Leo C. Massopust discussed nfra-Re Photography in Medicine; Dr. G. Kasten Tallmadge iscoursed on Unusual Medical Illustrations in the 16th Cenury, showing that changes in the woodblocks in Stephanus' natomy were due to the Vesalian discoveries. Another scienific session was held at the University of Wisconsin in

inting cost borne by the FRIENDS of the Armed Forces Medical Library.

Madison, to which the group was taken by bus; at this meeting Dr. Lloyd G. Stevenson and Dr. Erwin H. Ackerknecht gave talks.

Medical librarianship is a compound of medicine and librarianship, and the latter aspect was not forgotten in the planning for the MLA meeting. The interest of many members of the group in new library buildings was filled by tours of the new University of Wisconsin Library and the even newer Medical and Dental Library of Marquette University, as well as by a session on library plans, featuring a building nearing completion (Winnebago County Medical Library), a projected building (Alameda-Contra Costa County Medical Association Library), and a library getting new space in its original building (Jackson County Medical Society Library).

The practice of dividing the entire membership into groups along type-of-library lines, which started when the membership began to grow, was continued this year; separate meetings of dental, hospital, pharmacy, medical school and medical society librarians were held. Each year the problem of which of these meetings to attend -- especially when several are held simultaneously -- has become greater. Many libraries embrace more than one subject or type; many programs are of interest universally, but unless the convention were extended to at least twice its present length it would be impossible to fit in all of the meetings, tandem fashion. This year's program included sessions on audio-visual material in dental libraries; pharmacy education; a symposium on who uses the hospital library; a panel discussion on various aspects of medical school libraries.

As an organization grows in size and complexity, its business also grows; where earlier only a few committees were needed whose reports could be quickly heard and exhaustively studied, later the number of committees necessary to transact the business of the Association, as well as their complexity, made oral reporting and discussion too time-consuming for comfort. At the 53d Annual Meeting in Washington an experiment in preprinted reports was undertaken; this proved so successful that it was tried again in 1955. In addition to reading the mimeographed reports, the group was able to discuss at length portions of the reports which seemed of especial moment. The report of the Bibliography Committee concerning the possibility of a Union List of Medical and Scientific Periodicals was the center of much discussion; the Association was of the opinion that such a Union List would be welcome if the cost and the time required to bring it into being were not excessive.

An informal report on the Armed Forces Medical Library's quinquennial Catalog and the Current List of Medical Literature occasioned much comment and a request to publish a review of the situation.

At the final session of the Association, the following officers were elected for 1955-56: President, Mr. Wesley Draper, Brooklyn, New York; Vice-President and President-Elect, Miss Bertha B. Hallam, Portland, Oregon; Honorary Vice-President, Dr. Abraham B. Schwartz, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Secretary, Mrs. Henrietta T. Perkins, New Haven, Connecticut; Treasurer, Miss Pauline Duffield, Austin, Texas. Elected to the Board of Directors were Miss Eleanor G. Steinke (one year) and Lieutenant Colonel Frank B. Rogers, M.C., (three years).

SLAVIC MEDICAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES

A list of medical bibliographies published in Slavic countries will be brought out by the Armed Forces Medical Library next month. Undertaken by Mr. Stanley Jablonski of the Index Division on his own initiative, Slavic Medical Bibliographies comprises about 800 entries covering the post-war decade from 1945-1954, with a few 1955 items included. The Index Division is preparing this bibliography for publication with the technical assistance and editorial supervision of the Reference Division. A limited number of copies will be printed for distribution to interested libraries.

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

A facsimile transmitter, loaned by the Atomic Energy Commission, has been installed at the Armed Forces Medical Library. This transmitter is linked by leased telephone cable to the National Institutes of Health Library in Bethesda, where a receiver prints page copy of the material being sent from AFML. Although some actual copy has already been transmitted, many "bugs" remain to be removed, especially in the area of speed with which copy may be handled.

It is hoped that other receivers may be installed at the Naval Medical Research Institute, also in Bethesda, and at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, located at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Data will be gathered over a six months' period to determine the possibility of further development and utilization of this device.

NEW BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Library's most recent bibliography, The Structure, Composition, and Growth of Bone, 1930-1953, a compilation of approximately 3,000 references, was received from the printer in May. This bibliography will be sold by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at $1.00 per copy.

JAMES FRANCIS BALLARD, 1878-1955

On Sunday morning, 15 May 1955, James Francis Ballard, Director of the Boston Medical Library, died suddenly at his home.

Mr. Ballard had spent 63 of his 77 years in close association with the Boston Medical Library, beginning his work there at the age of 14; during those early years he delivered books to Oliver Wendell Holmes, Harvey Cushing, Richard Cabot and a host of other Boston physicians. For the last 50 years he was virtually in charge of the Library and instrumental in building it up to its present position of eminence. By his own efforts Mr. Ballard became an authority in a highly specialized field. He had a keen interest in old medical books and a rare knowledge of book prices and their true evaluation. The Boston Medical Library Classification was devised in 1918 by Mr. Ballard, and revised in a Third Edition of 1946.

Mr. Ballard's activities were not confined to the Boston Medical Library alone. He became President of the Medical Library Association in 1937 and held the office until 1939. From October 1939 to June 1941 he was the Business Manager for the Association's publication, the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association.

As a charter member of the Association of Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library, Mr. Ballard became its temporary chairman at the first meeting in 1944 and served on its Acquisitions Committee; he remained a member throughout the existence of this organization. At the time of his death he was a member of the Friends of the Armed Forces Medical Library. At the annual meeting of the FRIENDS in 1952, Dr. Henry R. Viets, Mr. Ballard's long-time associate at the Boston Medical Library, paid special tribute to Mr. Ballard as "a devoted servant of medical librarianship for six decades of an eventful life."

James Francis Ballard was a unique personality and will be greatly missed by medical librarians everywhere.

RELOCATION OF COLLECTIONS

On 26 May 1955 Mr. Robert B. Austin, Head of the Circulation Section, began the direction of a large crew of workers in the massive task of relocating every volume in the collections into newly-shelved stack areas. It will take many weeks to complete this job, but an extraordinary improvement in control should result. We ask the indulgence of our customers if service is slowed during this interim period.

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